

ABSTRACT

A backplane having a switch card interface and an adapter card interface

where the switch card interface has input/outputs in an arrangement that

functionally mate to a networking layer system switch card and a physical layer

5 system switch card. The adapter card interface is coupled to the switch card

interface. The adapter card interface has input/outputs in an arrangement that

functionally mates to a networking layer system adapter card and a physical

layer system adapter card. A method that involves forming a first and second

backplane according to a manufacturing process, integrating the first backplane

10 into a networking layer system switch, and integrating the second backplane

into a physical layer system switch.